

Fall 8-15-2003

ENG 3806-001: English Romantic Literature

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 Fall 2003 (0800-0850-MWF-CH3160 [310])
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Office Hours:
 MTWR 11:00-12:00
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ENG 3806.001: English Romantic Literature

Description: The course will focus principally on the major poets of the Romantic Movement in England: Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats and Byron. Although our attention will be on close readings of selected poems, we will also read selected theoretical prose pieces by not only these poets, but also other essayists. Our preoccupation will be with the themes and characteristics of High Romanticism as a literary movement: the spontaneous, experiential, interior sense of art; the freedom of the self from the constraints of decorum; the isolation (sometimes alienation) of self-consciousness; the values of desire and the joys of sensuality; and, the distrust of logical inquiry in the development of subjective knowledge. We will also seek to place these themes in the context of the Romantics' prophetic faith in the imagination to unify the cultural changes and violence of political revolution, the rise of industrialism and the staid institutionalism of the Church with the exuberant idealism of the individual. Along the way, if we have time, we may also question the impact and influence of Romantic ideology on modern literature and culture.

Prerequisite and Electronic Writing Portfolio Submissions: Students must have completed English 1002G or its equivalent before enrolling in ENG 3806, a "writing intensive" course. Sophomores and juniors may elect to submit an essay from ENG 3806 to their portfolios.

Format and requirements: I shall use lectures to sketch the historical, social and cultural backgrounds of the poets' texts, but, when we are considering specific poems, I shall expect students to keep up with the readings and to participate in the discussions. Reading quizzes will be given as necessary. Students will write two 6-7 page critical essays (25% each); a midterm essay examination (15%) and a final essay examination (25%); participation, including quizzes and brief assignments, will count 10%.

Course Texts:

William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and Experience* (SIE)
 _____, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (MHH)
 Coleridge and Wordsworth, *Lyrical Ballads* (LB)
 Anne Mellor and Richard Matlak, *British Literature: 1780-1830* (BL)

Recommended Library Readings:

Harold Bloom, *Romanticism and Consciousness*
 Aidan Day, *Romanticism*
 Lilian Furst, *Romanticism*
 Marilyn Gaul, *English Romanticism: The Human Context*
 E. Hobsbawn, *The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848*
 J. R. Watson, *English Poetry of the Romantic Period, 1789-1830*
 Duncan Wu, *Romanticism: A Critical Reader*

The recommended texts are optional readings which may be helpful in developing your critical essays and broadening your background for assigned readings. I encourage you to peruse them: Wu's *Reader*, Bloom's collection of essays and Watson's overview of the period may offer specific material on poets or poems that you choose to write on. Furst offers a solid discussion, akin to Day's, on the development and evolution of the Romantic ideology throughout Europe; Hobsbawn discusses the political history out of which Romanticism emerges; and, Gaul covers topics briefly that sketch the cultural climate of the period.

General Policies:

Grading Standards: I shall follow the EIU English Department Guidelines, distributed in class. In all cases, I shall use a plus and minus system to distinguish, say, a high *B* from a low one.

Attendance: I do take roll, and I evaluate attendance only indirectly in the context of your participation in the course.

Conferences: These are at your request unless I ask to see you. Please ask for help as soon as you feel you need it; please don't wait until the last couple of weeks of class.

Submission of work: Essays should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the paper only, titled and indicate the following: name, date, course and section number. Exercises and quizzes must be legible.

Late Essays: For each day that the essay is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an A essay due on Friday will be an F by the next Thursday. If there are particular difficulties, please see me.

Plagiarism: The English Department Policy

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and the representation of them as one's own original work" (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

If we discover an act of plagiarism, we shall exercise the right to the fullest extent possible. (See *The Blair Handbook*, pp. 233-249, for a further discussion of what constitutes plagiarism and how to integrate properly your material from sources.)

Please note: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

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ENG 3806.001: English Romantic Literature
Course Outline and Syllabus

All readings are from Mellor and Matlak's *British Literature* (BL) unless otherwise noted. Abbreviations are keyed to the course description. The syllabus is tentative; I'll announce adjustments as necessary.

August I. Backgrounds and Historical Contexts

M 25: Course introduction; "Romanticism" (Handout)
 W 27: "Premises and Backgrounds..." (Handout)
 Scan "Comprehensive Chronology" (1404-1418) in *British Literature* (BL)
 F 29: "Premises and Backgrounds..." (continued)
 Wordsworth: "London 1802" (599) and "Extempore Effusion..."
 (622); Coleridge: "France: An Ode" (handout); Shelley: "England in 1819"
 (1166). In BL, read the "Historical and Cultural Context" section
 introductions: 9-12; 31-33; 53-55; 85-89; 105-108; 125-128.

September

M 1: Labor Day--no class
 W 3: "Premises and Backgrounds..." (continued)
 F 5: Burke (13-19); Paine (25-28); Wollstonecraft (371-412; at least 411-412)
 and Godwin (90-95). [Read the Headnote for each writer and each that
 follows in the syllabus.]

II. William Blake: Vision, Prophecy and History

M 8: *All Religions Are One and There Is No Natural Religion* [both a & b] (276-
 277; and as handouts)
 W 10: Blake's "illuminated engravings": a slide show
 F 12: *The Book of Thel* (284-286)

 M 15: *Songs of Innocence* (277-284): specific poems for discussion announced in
 class; see Oxford edition of *SIE* as well; assignment: essay #1
 W 17: *Songs of Experience* (299-304): specific poems to be announced in class
 F 19: (continued)

 M 22: *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (287-294)); see Oxford edition
 W 24: *Visions of the Daughters of Albion* (294-299)
 F 26: (continued)

 M 29: Review of Blake and the Myth of *The Four Zoas* (handout)

October III. The Lyrical Ballads: The Poetics of Imagination

W 1: On Wordsworth (in *LB*): "Introduction" (xix-liv); "Expostulation and
 Reply"; "The Tables Turned" (104-106); "Preface" (241- 272)
 F 3: "Tintern Abbey" (113-118)

- M 6: On Coleridge: "The Nightingale..." (40-44)
 W 8: "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (LB 9-35 or in BL 734-742)
 (Ideally, read both versions); take-home midterm exam assigned
 F 10: (continued) **Essay #1 DUE**
- M 13: (Wordsworth) "The Old Cumberland Beggar" (205-211)
 W 15: "Michael, A Pastoral" (226-240)
 R 16: **Midterm Examination DUE** by 4 pm (in my mailbox CH3155 [311])
 F 17: No class-Fall Break

IV. Wordsworth: Reconsiderations--The Human Face of Nature, or the Nature of Humanity?

- M 20: "Resolution and Independence" (in BL 593-595)
 Assignment: essay #2
 W 22: "Ode" (603-605); "On the 'Ode'" (handout)
 F 24: (continued)
- M 27: Excerpts from *The Prelude* (624-656); doubtless you'll want to read *The Prelude* in its entirety, but, depending on our energies at this point, I'll announce specific passages for class discussion purposes...
 W 29: Review of Wordsworth

V. Coleridge: Reconsiderations--Despondent Flights

- F 31: [BL]: "The Eolian Harp" (760); "This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison" (709);
 "Frost at Midnight" (697)

November

- M 3: "Kubla Khan" (729); "Dejection: An Ode" (711)
 W 5: Excerpts from *Biographia Literaria* (745-755)
 F 7: No class--presentation at Midwest Modern Language Association conference

VI. Keats--Negative Capability in a Brutal World

- M 10: "On First Looking..." (1257); "When I have fears..." (1312); "Ode to a Nightingale" (1296)
 W 12: "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (1297); Letters: to BB (1265), to G & TK (1262), to RW (1266), to FB (1274), to PBS (1309)
 F 14: "Ode to Melancholy" (1298)
- M 17: "The Eve of St Agnes" (1279-1284)
 W 19: (continued)
 F 21: Review of Keats

Thanksgiving Recess

VII. Byron and Shelley: Dark Satire--"Intoxicating Moments"

December

- M 1: Shelley: "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty" (1065); "Mount Blanc..." (1063);
 W 3: "Ode to the West Wind" (903); "The Necessity of Atheism" (974); "A Defense of Poetry..." (1167-1178): as much of it as you possibly can.)
 F 5: (continued) Review of Shelley

M 8: Byron: "Maid of Athens" and "She Walks in Beauty" (handouts);
"Darkness" (919)
W 10: Review of Romanticism
F 12: (continued) **Essay # 2 DUE**

Final Examination: Tuesday, December 16, 8:00-10:00 am